

Avebury Parish Council

A site meeting of the Planning Committee of Avebury Parish Council took place on the Sports Field outside the Pavilion, Avebury SN8 1RD on Tuesday 18th October 2022.

The meeting started at 16h40.

1.To receive apologies for absence:

Donna Byatt, Mike Bedford, Mike Daniel, Maggie Lewis, Bob Parker, and Zandria Service.

2.To receive declarations of interest

There were none.

3.To answer questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public present.

4.To receive the mitigation proposal for application ref: PL/2022/07599

It was noted that an onsite meeting involving Peter Oliver (National Trust), Dominic Fry (ASSC), and Lynzey Paradise (APC) had taken place.

5.To consider two planning applications (listed below).

Planning applications:

Application for: works to trees in a conservation area

Proposal: 7 x Sycamore trees - heavy pollard to reduce height and canopy spread.

At: Avebury & District Club, Beckhampton Road, Avebury SN8 1RD. Ref: PL/2022/07586.

It was agreed to **support** the application subject to the comment that the “heavy pollarding” mentioned in the application should have been amplified with a percentage indicating the extent of the intended reduction.

Proposed Ben Butler, seconded Lynz Paradise.

Application for: works to trees in a conservation area

Proposal: Main Visitor Car Park - Fell one Mature Ash (Ash Dieback) N. Trust
Overflow Car Park - Fell 5 Semi Mature Ash South east Henge Sector - Fell 2
Mature Ash Avebury Recreation Ground - Fell 3 Mature Ash Carpenters Cottage -
fell 1 Leylandii , 1 Elder , Reduce 3 Leylandii West Kennett Farm - Reduce 11
Leylandii by 50% West Kennett Layby - Fell 3 Sycamore, 1 Elder, Reduce 1
Sycamore, Coppice 1 Goat Willow, The Lodge - Remove Mature Ash , Remove
Small Yew , Reduce Holly & Sycamore by 30%, Reduce twin Stemmed Sycamore
by 30% & Crown Lift, Reduce Western Stem on Triple Stemmed Sycamore.

At: the National Trust car park, Avebury SN8 1RF. Ref: PL/2022/07599.

It was agreed to **object** to the proposal making the following points:

1. This is a proposal to fell or remove 19 trees and reduce or coppice 20 trees. There is no balancing proposal to replant either where trees have been felled or elsewhere. APC's tree policy encourages those wishing to fell trees to replant wherever possible.
2. We recognise that the National Trust has a duty of care in respect of its members and visitors and fully respect that fact but are not persuaded that the most radical countermeasure – felling – is the only risk management tactic for all instances of ash dieback.
3. Whilst not all ash trees suffering dieback can benefit from lopping of dangerous limbs and/or roping off the adjacent area, those that might would be given an opportunity to demonstrate whether or not they are developing resistance to the infection.
4. There is literature to the effect that isolated ash trees suffering dieback (such as those in this application) are more likely to survive than those in woodlands. Has this been considered?
5. Careful consideration needs to be given to the needs of species, including protected species such as bats, that are likely to be deprived of their habitats through the felling of trees.
6. We are concerned by the apparent haste with which the National Trust is moving. If this proposal progresses in its current form, there will be an immediate and radical change to the landscape. This prospect has stimulated considerable interest and concern in the community.
7. We support some components of this application (for example, to reduce or remove overgrown trees, especially in the gardens of tenants of the Trust). Our main concern is with ash trees on the sports field and elsewhere.

Proposed by Lynz Paradise, seconded by Ben Butler.

The meeting ended at 17h10.